



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL WILL A. GUNN

Colonel Will A. Gunn is the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Military Commissions (OMC) Chief Defense Counsel. He is responsible for supervising all defense activities and the efforts of Detailed Defense Counsel to ensure zealous representation of all Accused referred to trial before a military commission. His duties also include administering the Civilian Defense Counsel pool for military commissions and advising the DoD General Counsel on matters relating to military commission defense activities.

Colonel Gunn is a 1980 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy (graduating with military honors). After graduation, Colonel Gunn served as an Admissions Advisor for the Academy and later served as a Contract Negotiator. In 1983, he was selected for the Air Force Funded Legal Education Program, attending Harvard Law School and graduating cum laude in 1986. Colonel Gunn has held a variety of assignments including service as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, Area Defense Counsel, Circuit Defense Counsel, Trial Attorney for the Air Force General Litigation Division's Military Personnel Branch, Instructor at the Air Force Judge Advocate General School, Wing Staff Judge Advocate, Chief Circuit Defense Counsel, and Executive Officer to the Air Force Judge Advocate General. In 1990, Colonel Gunn was selected as a White House Fellow and was assigned to the Executive Office of the President as an Associate Director of Cabinet Affairs. He holds a Master of Laws degree in Environmental Law from George Washington University and is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of the State of Florida.

He is a native of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

EDUCATION:

1980 Bachelor of Science, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado
1983 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
1986 Doctor of Jurisprudence, Harvard Law School
1993 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence
1994 Master of Laws, Environmental Law, George Washington University
1999 Air War College, by correspondence
2002 Master of Science, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1980 - 1981, Admissions Advisor, United States Air Force Academy, CO
1981 - 1983, Contract Negotiator, Hanscom AFB, MA
1983 - 1986, AFIT Student, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

1986 - 1987, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, Mather AFB, CA
1988 - 1989, Area Defense Counsel, Mather AFB, CA
1989 - 1990, Circuit Defense Counsel, Travis AFB, CA
1990 - 1991, White House Fellow, Associate Director of Cabinet Affairs, Executive Office of the President, White House, Washington, D.C.
1991 - 1993, Trial Attorney, General Litigation Division, Military Personnel Branch, Rosslyn, VA
1993 - 1994, AFIT Student, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
1994 - 1996, Instructor, Judge Advocate General School, Maxwell AFB, AL
1996 - 1999, Staff Judge Advocate, Pope AFB, NC
1999 - 2000, Chief Circuit Defense Counsel, Randolph AFB, TX
2001 - 2002, Student, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.
2002 - 2003, Executive Officer to The Judge Advocate General, Washington, D.C.
February 2003 – Present, DoD OMC Chief Defense Counsel

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS:

1980 Graduated with Military Honors, U.S. Air Force Academy
Elected President of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, Harvard Law School
1986 Graduated Cum Laude, Harvard Law School
1990 Selected as a White House Fellow
Selected as one of “Forty Lawyers Under Forty,” National Law Journal
2002 Inducted into the National Bar Association Military Law Section Hall of Fame

PUBLICATIONS:

“From the Landfill to the Other Side of the Tracks: Developing Empowerment Strategies to Alleviate Environmental Injustice,” Ohio Northern Law Review (1996)
“Supplementing the Defense Team: A Primer on Requesting and Obtaining Expert Assistance,” Air Force Law Review (1996)

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant: 28 May 1980
First Lieutenant: 28 May 1982
Captain: 28 May 1984
Major: 9 Nov 1991
Lieutenant Colonel: 1 Dec 1996
Colonel: 1 Mar 2002

(Current as of *February 2004*)